

## AT THE THEATERS

Magic Art Mystifier a Puzzle  
From Behind the Scenes.

News and Gossip of Stagedom  
and the Movie World.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS.

**At the Grand.**  
Today—"Daddy Long Legs."  
Jan. 1—"The Winning of Barbara Worth."  
Jan. 2—"Kick In."  
Jan. 3—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."  
Jan. 4—"Henpecked Henry."  
Jan. 5—"Twin Beds."  
Jan. 6—"The Lure."  
Jan. 7—"The Lure."  
Jan. 8—"The Lure."  
Jan. 9—"The Lure."  
Jan. 10—"The Lure."  
Jan. 11—"The Lure."  
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Jan. 29—"The Lure."  
Jan. 30—"The Lure."  
Jan. 31—"The Lure."

**At the Hip.**  
Today—Oliver Players in "Help Wanted."  
Dec. 27-29—"Help Wanted."  
Dec. 29-Jan. 1—"The Lure."  
**At the Novelty.**  
Vaudeville.

**At the Orpheum.**  
Vaudeville and Triangle pictures.  
**At the Isis.**  
Feature pictures.

**At the Movies.**  
Crystal—Motion pictures.  
Gem—Motion pictures.  
Cozy—Henry Kolker in "The Warning."

**Aurora—Motion pictures.**  
Best—Motion pictures.  
Princess—Motion pictures.  
Apex—Motion pictures.

To see a magician work from behind the scenes would seem a revelation of all the secrets of the black art. To the average person feats in magic look difficult enough from the front. But as a rule the spectator believes that from behind the wings the man can be seen stuffing parrots and silk hats into the tail of his dress suit.

C. Porter Norton is a sleight of

hand artist who has no particular objection to visitors watching his stunts from all angles. Norton played at the Orpheum theater the first half of the week and he was ably assisted by his pretty wife. The magician is only a young fellow and he has no beard, drooping mustache, or even a steady glint in his eyes, which depict genius.

Norton invited a newspaper man one day this week to watch him work from the stage. The reporter did so, confidently believing that at last the wonderful art would be unfolded to him.

C. Porter went before the footlights and opened up his act with a clever handkerchief disappearing feat, one of those where three white nose rags are passed through a paper and come out with all the colors of the rainbow. The reporter kept his optics glued on the skilled hands of the magician but could detect no more than he did the evening before from the audience.

**Not a False Suit.**  
The magician's dress suit was fully examined by the scribe before the show. It was nothing more or less than a regular suit, tailored in the latest fashion. So the reporter was puzzled.

Then Norton pulled his fishing trick. He also made some fine coffee out of beans and bran. However, here was where the reporter first doubted the sincerity of the art. A few moments before he had witnessed the magician's wife make coffee and had even gone so far as to drink a cup of it. On the stage not long after that Norton made the statement that this magic coffee was the best in the world. He did not add that it was a brand purchased in a Topeka grocery store.

From all sides, the work of this magician seemed unexplainable at the time and still is a mystery. His stage "props" were simple enough, yet the pieces of apparatus used in his act fill three big trunks. Last season Norton was on a summer chautauqua circuit and carried nine trunks. He is booked up for summer engagements for two years to come.

The modern magician, Norton asserts, has found other means of getting by without using his sleeves and swallow tail. He just makes things disappear but he alone knows. Probably way up in the eaves of the theater he throws glasses, paper, cloths and water. An afternoon, or an even-

ing, behind the scenes with a magician, is an afternoon or evening well spent.

**Opens the New Year.**  
The Kansas City Post says:

"The Winning of Barbara Worth," dramatization of Harold Bell Wright's book of the same name, at the Grand this week, brings out many thrilling situations. One feat he is in the desert where the setting for the play is made.

Jefferson Worth, whose ambition is to dam the Colorado river and reclaim the desert by irrigation, is crossing the desert in an old prairie schooner of the '49 type. With him are Texas Joe, Pat Mooney and Abe Lee. A sandstorm comes up and they are held prisoners with little water for two days. Lee becomes delirious. The cry of a child attracts them and a short distance from their wagon they find the body of a woman, a child held tightly in her arms. The child, a girl, lives, and is adopted by Jefferson Worth. One of the features of the prologue is the imitation sandstorm, which, to those who have seen sandstorms, say it is very real.

"Eighteen" years later, Jefferson Worth is seeing his wish come true. An eastern company is diving and damming the river and soon the desert, the home of Barbara Worth, is to be made into a fertile valley.

"Then there is a fight on Worth, but he comes out all right in the end. At the head of a new company he rebuilds the defective dam and wins his fight."

The role of Worth is taken by Theodore Hardy. Earl Burnside as Texas Joe and Ernest Mack as Jim Mooney are funny.

"Gertrude Barker is charming in the part of Barbara."  
The show comes to the Grand New Year's day.

**"Kick In."**  
"Kick-In," with Norman Hackett, which created an unexpected sensation in New York last season and ran for a whole year at the Republic theater, will receive its first presentation in this city Monday, January 3, at the Grand. It is said no comedy drama of recent years offers as many excuses for wholesome laughter and thrills; and he must be a hardened man of the world who could sit through its four engrossing acts with-

out experiencing a tingling sensation along the spine.

So great has been the success of "Kick-In" that five companies are now playing it. One in London, another in Australia and three in this country; so that it may truthfully be said he sun never sets on "Kick-In."

The company which will present the play here is touring all the large cities west of Chicago, including St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, New Orleans, St. Paul and Minneapolis, so that its standard is fully upon the two eastern "Kick-In" organizations. It will be headed by that fine actor, Norman Hackett, which in itself is sufficient guarantee for the excellence of his associate players, including Doris Hardy, an established Broadway favorite, who will be seen in the leading female role.

**"Henpecked Henry."**  
The famous musical comedy, "Henpecked Henry," is described by an enthusiastic reviewer as a "perpetual succession of side splitting scenes piled on top of each other with such speed and gusto that the giggles are doing the continuous." The producing managers make the claim that it is the funniest show in the world; in many towns the laughter has been so loud and continued that attaches of the theaters have been compelled to caution the audience against so much noise. It will be presented at the Grand January 6. The same handsome chorus and capable cast that has made the show famous will appear here.

**"Twin Beds."**  
Selwyn & Co., the firm responsible for those phenomenal successes, "Under Cover" and "Within the Law," has scored another theatrical winner with "Twin Beds." Selwyn, Field and Margaret Mayo's American comedy of love, laughter and thrills—the laughing sensation of New York where "Twin Beds" recently completed a run of one whole year to audiences that were convulsed with merriment. Its brilliant and appealing story and the brilliant manner in which it was unfolded by an exceptional cast of skilled comedians were the reasons for the phenomenal success of "Twin Beds" on Broadway. "Twin Beds" will be offered at the Grand January 6, and doubtless will prove one of the most popular attractions in many months.

**At the Cozy.**  
Henry Kolker will appear Monday and Tuesday of next week in "The Warning." This film has been compared favorably with "The Island of Regeneration." It is a master picture in every sense of the word and entirely different from the usual run. Kolker is one of the leading dramatic actors in America. He opened the season at the Grand last year in "Help Wanted."

**At the Orpheum.**  
Bessie Barriscale plays the part of a girl who marries for money in the Triangle play "The Golden Claw," which is to come to the Orpheum theater Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. Miss Barriscale is shown as living with her mother (Truly Shattuck). They are in straitened circumstances, though living in an extravagant way. As a result, the girl makes up her mind to marry a man of wealth. Her choice falls upon a rich youth, who is represented by Frank Mills. She frankly tells him that she is marrying him for money alone, but he does not believe in the pinching out of the vein in the silver mine in which he is interested. His wealth, and he is puffed to do his utmost to recoup his fortune. By lucky deals on change he restores himself to his former position as a man of means, but the strain of constant effort and concentration in money making make him into a sort of machine.

Then Miss Barriscale, as the heroine, begins to notice that she has lost the lover that so ardently wooed her, and she realizes the hollowness of luxury

and wealth without affection. On the anniversary of her marriage she goes to see her husband in his office, and when she reminds him of what they mean, thinking that he would give her some flowers or other token of his love, she is bitterly disappointed by his coldly handing her a check for \$50,000.

Miss Barriscale is next seen entertaining a former rival of Mills who is also a rival in the stock market. By this man's machinations Mills becomes involved to such a degree that he wants to borrow the money he had presented to his wife. In order to get him away from his money mad career Miss Barriscale refuses to aid him.

He is ruined and is about to commit suicide when he overhears his wife telling his rival that she had refused Mills in order to win him back to himself. At this disclosure he masterfully sends the other man on his way, and with some of his old fire he takes his estranged wife to his bosom.

**At the Novelty.**  
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The rabbit sat still for a moment and a perceptible grin spread over his features. Then he gently trotted off and disappeared in the underbrush.

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A Pair of Pantalettes on View on Kansas Avenue for Some Time This Afternoon.

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